

Amendment and Response
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REMARKS

Claims 1-24 and 26-30 were presented for examination. The Office Action rejects claims 1-24 and allows claims 26-30. Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of these claims. This paper amends claims 1, 8, 14, 21, 22, 23, and 24 to describe the claimed invention more clearly over the cited art. Support for the amendments can be found, in general, throughout the specification and, in particular, on page 3, lines 15-19 and page 7, lines 14-15. Claims 1-24 and 26-30 remain pending in the application.

Rejection of claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Huang (U.S. Pat. No. 6,292,829). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection, because Huang does not disclose all the limitations, as now claimed in the Applicants' invention.

Applicants' invention provides an interface to network management information. More specifically, as now set forth in Applicants' representative claim 1, Applicants' invention produces an object-oriented interface to a *non-object oriented* MIB. This interface includes object-oriented classes and methods, which correspond to the non-object oriented MIB, and which can be used "by an object-oriented application to access information in the non-object oriented MIB."

Unlike the Applicants' invention, however, Huang does not produce an object-oriented interface to a *non-object oriented* MIB. Rather, in Huang, the MIB (30) is an *object-oriented* MIB. As is commonly known in the art, object-oriented refers to a programming technology that treats objects (i.e., variables) as discrete entities with self-contained data and routines (i.e., methods) for manipulating the data. In this sense, the variables in a non-object oriented MIB are not objects, (i.e., they are not discrete entities with self-contained data and methods), whereas those variables in Huang's object-oriented MIB are. Because the Applicants' invention and Huang are working with two different types of MIBs, i.e., non-object oriented and object-oriented MIBs, each produces a different solution to a different problem.

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The Applicants' invention presents a solution to the problem of how to enable object-oriented applications to communicate with non-object oriented MIBs. Huang's solution is diametrically opposite: Huang presents a potential solution to the problem of how to enable non-object oriented PDUs to communicate with an object-oriented MIB. More specifically, Huang's SNMP handler translates non-object oriented SNMP PDUs into object-oriented CMIP commands to communicate with the object-oriented MIB. In contrast, the Applicants' invention uses the classes and methods of an object-oriented interface to produce, for example, SNMP PDUs to communicate with a non-object oriented MIB. Huang therefore does not disclose or suggest producing an object-oriented interface for use by an object-oriented application *to access a non-object oriented MIB*, as now set forth in the Applicants' claimed invention. Applicants' respectfully submit that the rejection is overcome.

Independent claims 8, 14, 21, 22, 23, and 24 have been amended to recite language similar to that of independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicants submit that such independent claims are also patentably distinguishable over Huang for at least those reasons provided in connection with claim 1. Dependent claims 2-7, 9-13, and 15-20 depend directly or indirectly from patentable independent claims 1, 8, 14, 21, 22, 23, and 24, incorporate all of their respective limitations, and therefore are patentably distinguishable over the cited reference for at least those reasons provided in connection with the independent claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and arguments made herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and requests early favorable action by the Examiner.

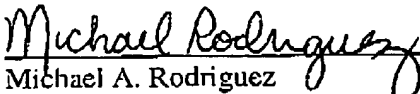
If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with the Applicants' representative would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned at (508) 303-2003 ext. 12.

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Respectfully submitted,

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